

10/539825

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

JC05 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 JUN 2005

In re Application of: Michael Rosenbauer et al
Application Number: Unassigned
Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith
Group Art Unit:
Examiner:
Title: HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE, PARTICULARLY BUILT-IN
HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, I am submitting a completed "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" (*Form PTO/SB/08A*) with patents and/or publications as delineated therein attached.

DE 198 59 980 discloses a machine and the machine has a door and a control panel with at least one internal component (14) and at least one externally operable and/or visible component (12,13). The internal component(s) is arranged so that the externally visible component (13) can be viewed from several levels of the housing without altering the arrangement of the internal component and the externally operable component (12) remains fixed in the arrangement.

DE 200 14 556 discloses an outer handle for a door comprised of a hollow body in which various switches, actuators, receivers, and light sources are disposed and having a connector via which data and electrical power can be conducted.

DE 38 34 618 discloses a device for indicating the set programme by means of a handle in domestic appliances, such as washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, electric ovens or the like, in which the programme is applied annularly on a conical disc and the set

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programme can be seen through an inspection glass by looking at a section of the cone envelope. In appliances of this type, the set programme can be seen only with difficulty, for the section to be seen is located on the surface of the cone envelope, on top as seen by the operator, so that, if the cover plate projects somewhat, vision is impeded. To avoid this disadvantage, therefore, it is proposed that the cone-envelope surface of the disc (4) be an inner cone (8). As a result of this measure proposed according to the invention, the labelling can be set lower, so that the characters applied on the disc can be seen better by the operator through the inspection glass.

DE 198 59 976 discloses a machine having a control panel with at least one internal component (14) and at least one externally operable and/or visible component (12,13). For machines with open control panels at a defined level of the machine an aperture body (11") accommodates the externally visible and/or operable component(s). The internal component(s) is arranged so that the externally operable components can be viewed from several levels of the housing without altering the arrangement of the internal component. Transfers between the internal and external components take place only via transfer elements at the aperture body.

DE 198 31 850 discloses an operating element having a first part (17) made of an electrically nonconductive material which can be brought into contact with the program selection switch (15), and fitted with an electrically conductive part with a surface which is contacted by the user, provided by a nonconductive body with an electrically conductive surface coating.

DE 198 02 865 discloses several switch positions (10) for different program settings. They are arranged in order of declining selection frequency or rising energy consumption, starting from the 'off' position.

DE 196 51 821 discloses that a laundry treatment machine or a dishwasher has an operating field (1) which carries operating elements (2,8,9,10,11) for setting programs and auxiliary functions, and display elements (6,7,12,13,14) for displaying program data or auxiliary data. The operating and display elements are connected with a microprocessor control (26), and the invention features other operating and/or display elements (15,16) which are not directly connected with the control (26). A housing (24) is located behind the visible part of the operating field (1) and all the operating or display elements (2,8,9,10,11, 6,7,12,13,14) connected to the microprocessor control (26) are located on or in the housing.

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DE 100 56 498 discloses a domestic appliance (1) having a sound source (6) e.g. a radio receiver for production of sound. The sound source has facilities for determining the noises produced by the domestic appliance, which are introduced in such a manner. That the second source controls the sound produced relative to the type of the sound or its loudness depending on the determining of the noises produced by the domestic appliance.

EP 1 151 717 discloses a dishwasher having a pivotable door with visual operating indicator on its upper end with light sources covered by work top when door is closed. Light from covered display is brought to front of machine by a light conductor in gap between door and panel. Light conductor is connected to vapor protection element fixed to the underside of the panel or attached to a separate frame part fixed to the panel. The dishwasher has a pivotable door (2) with a visual operating indicator on its upper end with one or more light sources (24) covered by a work top (5) above the machine when the door is closed. The light from the covered display is brought to the front of the machine by a light conductor (13) in the gap above the door and the underside of the panel. The light conductor is connected to a vapor protection element fixed to the underside of the panel or is attached to a separate frame part mounted on the underside of the panel.

EP 0 396 915 discloses household appliances, such as laundry-treatment and dishwashing machines, with a programme input device, in which a selectable main programme can be set by means of a rotary selector switch and further additional functions by means of pushbutton switches, and with a microcomputer control, by means of which the programme execution of the machine is controlled, the user is to be offered a simple method and arrangement for programme input and programme control. For this, the pushbutton switches (4) are designed as non-locking switches, the input commands of which are stored in a non-volatile memory, so that, in the event of a restart, the programme already individually selected is executed automatically.

EP 0 691 100 discloses a household appliance of the built-in type, in particular a dishwashing machine, comprises a cabinet (6) and a frontal door (7), where on an edge (10) of the door (7) at least one luminous signalling device (12) is provided, in particular a spy-light, indicating a determined operational condition of the appliance (15), said luminous signalling device (12) resulting, with the door (7) closed, hidden and protected by surface (9, 4) extending substantially parallel to the edge (10) of the door (7) in which said luminous signalling device (12) is provided; the main characteristic of the described appliance consists in that means (16) are provided for transferring the light emitted from the luminous signalling

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device (12) towards the front of the door (7), so as to allow the control of the operational condition of the appliance (15) without having to open the door.

WO 97/26486 discloses that controls for ovens and cooking ranges fitted into the handle for the door of an oven, e.g. by providing rotary controls at the extremities of a rod-shaped handle or by push-actuators along the rod. The electrical contact is made by means of a cable through the hinges or by multipoint connectors which are only active when the door is closed which provides additional safety features. In the latter case, the entire door may be removed without the need for separation of the electrical circuit.

If no translation of pertinent portions of any foreign language patents or publications mentioned within the "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" is included with the aforementioned copies of those applications, patents and/or publications, it is because no existing translation is readily available to the Applicants. As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned US patents and US patent application publications are submitted for this application which was filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted



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June 20, 2005

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Application Number	Unassigned
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First Named Inventor	Michael Rosenbauer
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	2002P01292WOUS

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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ ~Number ⁴ ~Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		DE 198 59 980 -	06-29-2000	Roland Vetter et al		
		GB 2 044 427 -	10-15-1980	Klaus Gute		✓
		DE 200 14 556 -	01-18-2001	Thomas Buchal		
		GB 2 262 541 -	06-23-1993	Karl Thier		✓
		DE 38 34 618 -	04-19-1990	Gerd Wilsdorf		
		DE 198 59 976 -	06-29-2000	Michael Rosenbauer		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		GB 2 340 257 y	02-16-2000	Gerd Wilsdorf		✓
		DE 198 31 850 y	01-20-2000	Max Kraft et al		
		DE 198 02 865 y	07-29-1999	Martina Woebkemeier		
		DE 196 51 821 y	06-18-1998	Joachim Basner		
		DE 100 56 498 y	05-29-2002	Robert Kugler		
		EP 1 151 717 y	12-17-2003	Frank Evertzberg		

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		Country Code ³ ~Number ⁴ ~Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP 0 396 915	07-06-1994	Peter Zinkann		
		EP 0 691 100	05-12-1999	Pietro Mariani		✓
		WO 97/26486	07-24-1997	Pelle Oestlund et al		
		International Search Report for PCT/EP2003/013723				✓

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Signature**

Date
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